

MAR 29 2006



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, we enclose for your review the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region - Measures to End Bottomfish Overfishing in the Hawaii Archipelago (DSEIS).

On May 27, 2005, the Regional Administrator for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Pacific Islands Region notified the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council) that overfishing of the bottomfish species complex is occurring within the Hawaiian Archipelago (70 FR 34452, June 14, 2005). In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), the Council is preparing a regulatory amendment under the Fishery Management Plan for the Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region. to end overfishing in the bottomfish complex in the Hawaiian Archipelago. This DSEIS examines Hawaii's bottomfish fisheries, describes the alternatives being considered to end the overfishing, and identifies the impacts associated with each alternative.

Additional copies of the DSEIS may be obtained from Keith Schultz, NEPA Specialist; 1601 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 1110, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814, 808-944-2276. Please specify when requesting if you would prefer a hard copy of the document, otherwise a CD may be provided. The document is also accessible electronically through the NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office website at <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/pir> or at the Council website at <http://www.wpcouncil>.

Comments or questions on this document submitted during the agency's 45-day review period for the DSEIS must be received by May 30, 2006. Written comments should be submitted by mail to: William L. Robinson, Pacific Islands Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Honolulu, HI 96814. Comments may be submitted by facsimile (fax) to 808-973-2941. Electronic comments may be submitted by e-mail to [PIRBottomfishDSEIS@noaa.gov](mailto:PIRBottomfishDSEIS@noaa.gov); include in the comment subject line the following document identifier: Bottomfish Overfishing DSEIS. A copy of your comments should be submitted to me by mail to the NOAA Strategic Planning Office (PPI/SP), SSMC3, Room 15603, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; by fax to 301-713-0585; or by e-mail to [nepa.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:nepa.comments@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

Rodney F. Weiher, Ph.D.  
NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure



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